

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 04252 131458Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----076445 131511Z /44  
P 122213Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4313

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 4252  
STADIS  
EXDIS  
E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: AMODE  
SUBJECT: EVALUATION BY CHIEF OF MISSION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS

REF: A. STATE 201122; B. MANAGUA 3983; C. STATE 188029  
D. MANAGUA 3242; E. STATE 154335; F. MANAGUA 1506  
AND 1507

1. REFTELS (SOME OF WHICH WERE CAPTIONED EXDIS, STADIS, OR BOTH) CONTAIN DETAILS OF CHIEF OF MISSION'S EVALUATIONS OF PROGRAM AND STAFFING LEVELS FOR USG AGENCIES IN NICARAGUA IN LIGHT OF U.S. INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES IN THIS COUNTRY. WE HAVE LEFT TO THE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES AT POST THE TASK OF ACHIEVING SPECIFIC ZBB-MANDATED PERCENTAGE LEVELS, FOCUSING OUR ATTENTION ON OVER-ALL PROGRAM LEVELS AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH THEY MESH WITH INTERESTS. WE ASSUME THAT STAFFING WILL BE ADJUSTED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT; IF THESE ADJUSTMENTS ARE NOT FORTHCOMING, THE CHIEF OF MISSION'S AUTHORITY WILL BE EXERCISED TO SEE THAT THEY ARE.

2. U.S. MILITARY GROUP PERSONNEL LEVELS ARE IN THE "SPECIAL CASE" CATEGORY (STATE 201236). PROGRAM LEVELS, OR EVEN THE EXISTENCE OF FY 77 AND 78 PROGRAMS, WILL  
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DEPEND ON GON HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE. STAFFING, HOWEVER, WILL BE FIXED AT EITHER THREE OR SIX MILITARY PERSONNEL BY LEGISLATION WHICH TAKES EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1977.

3. USAID LEVELS FOR FY'S 78 AND 79 ARE ALSO CURRENTLY BEING REVIEWED BY AID/W. THIS MISSION'S EVALUATION,

CONSISTENTLY STATED FOR ALMOST TWELVE MONTHS, IS THAT DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND GRANT ASSISTANCE SHOULD TOTAL NO MORE THAN \$12 MILLION FOR FY 1978 AND \$10 MILLION FOR FY 1979. USAID NICARAGUA STAFFING WAS LEGITIMATELY INCREASED FOLLOWING THE 1972 EARTHQUAKE WHICH DEVASTATED THE CAPITAL CITY. IT SHOULD BE PHASED DOWN NO LATER THAN THE END OF FY 1979 TO REFLECT TERMINATION OF RECONSTRUCTION-RELATED PROGRAMS AND NEW, MORE MODEST ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PACKAGES. OUR STAFFING TARGETS THROUGH FY 1979 SEE A MAXIMUM OF 25 AMERICAN DIRECT HIRE EMPLOYEES (AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT CONTRACTING FOR SERVICES SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO SUPPLANT DIRECT HIRE EMPLOYMENT) AND A CORRESPONDINGLY EQUIVALENT NUMBER OF FOREIGN SERVICE LOCAL EMPLOYEES.

4. NICARAGUA CAN PUT TO GOOD USE NO MORE THAN 100 PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS. A STAFF OF THREE AMERICANS AND EIGHT FOREIGN SERVICE LOCAL EMPLOYEES PROVIDES COMPETENT MANAGEMENT OF A COUNTRY PROGRAM OF THIS SIZE. PC WASHINGTON PRESSURE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS TO MORE THAN 100 SHOULD BE RESISTED.

5. USIS PROGRAMS IN NICARAGUA ARE OF MODEST PROPORTIONS. THEY, AND USIS STAFFING, MESH WITH OUR INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES.

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6. S/IG HAS CONCLUDED THAT STATE STAFFING IN MANAGUA HAS BEEN PARED TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, SHORT OF MAJOR REORGANIZATION WHOSE OUTCOME MIGHT BE DOUBTFUL. IF USAID STAFFING WERE TO BE REDUCED BELOW CURRENTLY FORESEEN LEVELS, A RE-EXAMINATION OF JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT LEVELS WOULD BE IN ORDER.

7. TWO ONE-MAN OPERATIONS WHICH SERVE U.S. INTERESTS ARE THE DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY/INTERAMERICAN GEODETIC SURVEY PROJECT AND A USDA ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL SPECIALIST WHO COVERS NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS FROM A MANAGUA BASE. IN CASE REDUCTIONS TO DECREASE MISSION ACTIVITY WERE CALLED FOR, BOTH OF THESE PROGRAMS WOULD HAVE TO BE SCRUTINIZED ANEW. SIMILARLY, TWO FOREIGN AREA SPECIALISTS (U.S. ARMY OFFICERS) ARE BASED IN MANAGUA AND ATTACHED TO THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE. AS WITH DMA/IAGS AND USDA, THESE POSITIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IF FURTHER REDUCTIONS WERE REQUIRED.

RUBENSTEIN

NOTE BY OC/T: STADIS EXDIS CAPTIONS ADDED PER INSTRUCTIONS  
SS-O.

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## Message Attributes

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